

What Is God's Greatest Desire?

Psalm 115:3 But our God is in the heavens; He does whatever He pleases.

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May 8, 2011

God Desires That "None" Would Perish

2 Peter 3:9 The Lord is not slow about the promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.

1 Timothy 2:3-4 This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

Why Then Do Any Perish?

Ezekiel 18:23 Do I have any pleasure in the death of the wicked, declares the Lord GOD, "rather than that he should turn from his ways and live?"

If God desires all to be saved, why aren't all saved?

1. God elevates human free will above His will that all would be saved.
2. God desires something more than He desires all to be saved.

Examining The Options

1. God elevates human free will above His will that all would be saved.

John 6:44a No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him...

Draws = elkuo - 6 times in N.T. "to drag"

John 18:10 ...Peter then, having a sword, drew it and struck the high priest's ear.

John 21:6b So they cast, and then they were not able to haul it in...

Examining The Options

1. God elevates human free will above His will that all would be saved.

Romans 3:11 There is none who understands, there is none who seeks for God.

- If option one were true, then no human would be saved!
- But some humans are saved.
- Therefore, option 1 cannot be true!

Examining The Options

2. God desires something more than He desires all to be saved.

Romans 9:15-17 For He says to Moses, "I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion." So then it does not depend on the man who wills or the man who runs, but on God who has mercy. For the Scripture says to Pharaoh, "For this very purpose I raised you up, to demonstrate My power in you, and that My name might be proclaimed throughout..."

God Desires To Be Glorified!

Romans 9:22-23 NKJV What if God wanted to show His wrath and to make His power known, endured with much longsuffering the vessels of wrath prepared for destruction and that He might make known the riches of His glory on the vessels of mercy, which He had prepared beforehand for glory...

Prepared = Katertismena (middle passive)

How Can God Will Two Things?

- 2 Peter 3:9 – God desires all to be saved.
- Romans 9:22 – God desires some to perish.
- Because people do perish, we can conclude that God desires to demonstrate His glory in a “full orb” manner by demonstrating His wrath more than He desires to save every person.

Will of Command **Will of Decree**
 “desires all saved” < “I will glorify My Name”

Lesson 1

We must believe that God’s glory and the reputation of His name are more important than our happiness and even the salvation of every person!

- Rough marriage? Are you willing to be unhappy in order to glorify God through fulfilling your marital covenant?
- Struggling single? Are you willing to glorify God in purity rather than live for your own temporary happiness?

God's Sovereignty And Human Responsibility
2 Peter 3:11-12 Since all these things are to be destroyed in this way, what sort of people ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God...

Acts 17:30-31a Therefore having overlooked the times of ignorance, God is now declaring to men that all people everywhere should repent because He has fixed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness...

God's Sovereignty And Human Responsibility
Acts 3:19-21 Therefore repent and return, so that your sins may be wiped away, in order that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord; and that He may send Jesus, the Christ appointed for you, whom heaven must receive until the period of restoration of all things about which God spoke by the mouth of His holy prophets from ancient time.

God Uses Us For His Purposes
God is sovereign: "He fixed the day"
Human responsibility: "Repent so that..."

<u>God's Decree</u>	<u>Human Means</u>
Election Eph.1:4	Preaching Rom. 10:14
Fixed day Acts 17:31	"Hasten it" 2 Peter 3:12

Humans Are Responsible!

Matthew 26:24 The Son of Man is to go, just as it is written of Him; but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been good for that man if he had not been born.

1 John 2:17 The world is passing away, and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of God lives forever.

God's Decretive Will: Judas fulfilled

God's Commanded Will: Judas sinned

Lesson 2

We must remember that we have been "set free" to obey Christ and will be held responsible for obeying His commanded will.

God's Decretive Will

God's Commanded Will

Should I go to New Jersey for ministry?

Should I teach Eastern meditation to people?

God Actively Fulfills Prophecy

Revelation 17:16-17 And the ten horns which you saw, and the beast, these will hate the harlot and will make her desolate and naked, and will eat her flesh and will burn her up with fire. **For God has put it in their hearts to execute His purpose** by having a common purpose, and by giving their kingdom to the beast, until the words of God will be fulfilled.

God Uses Satan For His Purposes

Luke 22:3 And Satan entered into Judas who was called Iscariot, belonging to the number of the twelve.

Acts 2:23 this Man, delivered over by the **predetermined plan** and **foreknowledge** of God, you nailed to a cross by the hands of godless men and put Him to death.

Does God "Do" Evil?

James 1:13 Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God"; for God cannot be tempted by evil, and He Himself does not tempt anyone.

Instrumental Cause of Evil: Humans
Efficient Cause: God is like an architect who uses evil for good!

Genesis 50:20 As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good in order to bring about this present result, to preserve many people alive.

God Restrains Evil For His Purposes

Genesis 20:5-6 (Abimelech speaking) Did he not himself say to me, 'She is my sister'? And she herself said, 'He is my brother.' In the integrity of my heart and the innocence of my hands I have done this." Then God said to him in the dream, "Yes, I know that in the integrity of your heart you have done this, and I also kept you from sinning against Me; therefore I did not let you touch her.

Lesson 3

As we suffer in this life and see evils perpetrated, we must remember that God is using these things for His greatest glory and our greatest good.

Psalm 33:10-11 The LORD nullifies the counsel of the nations; He frustrates the plans of the peoples The counsel of the LORD stands forever, The plans of His heart from generation to generation.
